



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. Celebrates 50 Years

Public Gala on October 13, 2016 will mark half a century of service

(Dixon, IL)

On **Thursday, October 13, 2016**, Sinnissippi Centers will celebrate its **50th Anniversary** with a **gala at Sauk Valley Community College** (173 Illinois Route 2, Dixon) in the East Mall area. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Join Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. as we commemorate 50 years of providing behavioral healthcare services to the residents of Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties.

“We will have presentations from two keynote speakers,” says Patrick Phelan, Sinnissippi Centers’ President/CEO. “They will talk about the history of community behavioral health, the history of our area, and the history of Sinnissippi Centers,” adds Phelan. “We will also have heavy hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, and musical entertainment from Acoustic Circus.” Keynote speakers will be Larry Prindaville, former Sinnissippi Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer, and Marvin Lindsey.

“We invite you to attend and celebrate our half century of providing behavioral healthcare services to our four-county area,” says Phelan. “I know you will enjoy it and we will enjoy seeing our many friends and supporters, some of whom have been with us for a good portion of the past half-decade.”

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are on sale now. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information on Sinnissippi Centers’ 50th Anniversary Gala, visit online at www.sinnissippi.org, or call 815-284-6611. Tickets can be purchased online, sponsorship opportunities are available.

BIOGRAPHY OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER – LARRY PRINDAVILLE

Larry Prindaville began his career at Sinnissippi Centers on February 12, 1972, as a Clinical Psychologist, later serving as Coordinator of Community Management starting in 1980, Director of Clinical Services in 1981, Associate Director of the organization in 1985, as Vice President/Chief Clinical Officer in 1989, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer starting in 1999 and until his retirement. Prindaville received his B.S. in Psychology from Loyola University in 1970, and his M.S. in Psychology from Western Illinois University in 1974. Prindaville retired from the agency 44 years to the day from when he started at Sinnissippi Centers, on February 12, 2016.

BIOGRAPHY OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER – MARVIN LINDSEY

Marvin Lindsey - MSW, CADC is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois (CBHA). He became the organization’s CEO in July of 2015. Prior to that Lindsey served as Vice President of Government Affairs for CBHA starting in June of 2006.

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CBHA is a statewide not-for-profit membership organization representing the interests of community behavioral healthcare agencies in the state of Illinois. An association of providers of mental health, substance abuse and youth services to Illinois citizens, CBHA promotes the development of quality programs providing services for community behavioral health including mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, rural mental health and children and adolescents. Their mission is to represent the interests of members in order to ensure access and availability of a comprehensive system of accountable, quality behavioral healthcare services for the people of Illinois. Lindsey has a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from DePaul University.

HISTORY OF THE SINNISSIPPI MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, NOW SINNISSIPPI CENTERS

The foundations for Sinnissippi Centers, and many other agencies like it, were laid when President John F. Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Act into law in October of 1963. Around the same time local efforts were underway to try and address the need for better mental health services, located closer to the communities where people in need of these services lived and worked.

From those converging forces, The Sinnissippi Mental Health Center was incorporated on May 31, 1966, and began officially providing services on July 1, 1966, from two office locations: Dixon and Sterling. The agency served the same four county area it does today from the beginning; Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties. In its first fiscal year (July 1, 1966 – June 30, 1967), Sinnissippi Centers served the mental health needs of 847 consumers with a staff of 16 full and part time employees.

“Over the years, we have added many programs and services and expanded from mental health into substance use treatment, individual and family counseling, early childhood mental health, as well as many more programs and services,” says Phelan. “We changed our name to reflect that evolution, from the Sinnissippi Mental Health Center to Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. More than 1,000 individuals have worked for the agency over our half century history fulfilling our mission of providing quality, coordinated, and responsive behavioral healthcare services. We have grown from those first two small offices to five full time offices (Dixon, Mt. Carroll, Oregon, Rochelle, & Sterling) and four residential living sites, one in each of the same four counties we served in 1966 and continue to serve. Today we have a staff of around 150. During our most recently completed fiscal year, FY2016, we served 5,468 individuals. We celebrate our 50 year history and we look forward to another half century of providing services to our communities.”

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